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ing country. The window frames in this tower are all perfect; and we observed, that in them all, great pains had been taken to cut projecting sockets in the stone, for the hinges of the shutters to turn on.

This beautiful church has not escaped the hands of modern dilapidators; but, like the other ruins, has suffered considerably—partly from persons applying the materials to other purposes, and partly from the still less pardonable love of mischief which too many possess. The east window, which is figured by Ledwich in his drawing of the antiquities of Devenish, has been pulled down; and the materials removed, perhaps for some building on the main land; but, what is a still more wanton and inexcusable act, the marble font which stood near the centre of the church, has been very lately dashed to pieces, and the fragments still lie scattered around, affording too many proofs of the visit of some tasteless barbarian.

The want of trees is a great defect in this island; and seems rather singular in a neighbourhood in general so well wooded. It is most probable, that trees at one time existed, but have been cut down since the island ceased to be used for religious purposes; which supposition seems probable, as the monks, who had a great deal of spare time, generally devoted a part of it to the embellishment of their property. Dr. Ledwich, in his drawing, introduces a number of trees about the old church; but, at the time of our visit, there was not a tree or bush to be seen, nor even any marks of their having lately existed. After spending some hours at Devenish,—during which B—— took sketches of the round tower, and the most remarkable of the ruins,—we returned to Enniskillen highly pleased with our morning's excursion, which afforded us an ample subject for conversation during the remainder of the day.

I shall take advantage of the first opportunity which occurs, of writing to you again. Until then, I remain, &c.

E—.

LETTER IV.—CASTLE COOL

Pettigo, 22d July, 1824.

DEAR G——,

After breakfast, on Tuesday, we walked out to visit Castle Cool, the magnificent seat of Lord Belmore, which is about two miles from Enniskillen, but not immediately on the banks of Lough Erne. The avenue to the house passes through a demesne, beautiful both on account of the natural formation

of the ground, and of the fine trees with which it abounds. In the meadows, on each side of the avenue, there are numbers of very fine hawthorns, of a great age, many of which have beautiful outlines; and, as they stand singly, produce a very pleasing effect. They are, indeed, such trees as the superstition of the country has marked out as "gentle places," and appropriated to the midnight revels of the fairies. The approach to the house has been managed with great art, so as to distract the attention of the visiter, by sometimes allowing him to catch a glimpse of it through the trees; and, when he supposes he has nearly reached it, insensibly drawing him off to a distance; at the same time, fully repaying him for the disappointment, by presenting to his view some new scenery. At one part, the avenue passes along the banks of a natural lake, of considerable dimensions, which is included in the demesne; and appeared to us, even after the rich scenery of Lough Erne, a very beautiful object. A colony of herons have taken possession of some sycamore trees on an island near the bank, where they build their nest, and rear their young in security, undisturbed by the passengers, who, they know from experience, have no wish to molest them.

Castle Cool house is said to be the finest in Ireland; and, in respect of natural beauty, the demesne can be surpassed by few in any country. The house, which consists of a centre and two wings, in the Ionic style of architecture, is built of Portland stone, and fitted up with great magnificence. It stands on a low hill, which slopes down gradually from the wings, affording a fine view of the plantations in the demesne, and of the distant mountains. From one wing, there is a subterranean passage to the offices, for the purpose of bringing up carts, without disturbing the inhabitants. The hill, for some distance, in front of the house, is flat, and skirted by a planting, at the commencement of the declivity. From the top of this hill, there is a fine view of Lough Erne, which is seen winding through the country; its banks, in all directions, being covered with groves of trees, and gentlemen's seats. It is rather a disadvantage, that this view of Lough Erne cannot be seen from the front of the house; which, in consequence of the situation, has a very confined prospect. Every one who visits Castle Cool must regret, that it had not been placed on the part of the hill immediately behind the gardens. This part of the demesne, however, does not belong to the real estate of the family; but, being church land, is held under the bishop of the diocese; and, therefore, the family did not wish to expend so large a sum as £120,000, which the house is said to have cost, on property over which they had not complete controul.

The gardens are extensive, and pleasantly situated on the sloping bank of the hill in front; and, at the bottom of which, there is a canal for supplying them with water.

The trees at Castle Cool are generally old, and many of them of great magnitude. They consist chiefly of oak, ash, and beech, intermingled with several other kinds. In one place, there are two very fine rows of beeches, between which the avenue had formerly passed. These run in two straight lines, nearly as far as the eye can reach; and consist of trees of great age and immense size, which form an impervious shade over the former line of the road.

We returned to Enniskillen for a late dinner, and spent the remainder of the evening in walking about in the neighbourhood of the town; and, from the high grounds on the east side, we had some fine views of the lower lake, and the neighbouring country. On leaving Enniskillen, we had the choice of two roads, either to go round the eastern or north-western side of the lower lake. After some consideration, we chose the former, on account of its passing through Pettigo, which is the nearest town to Lough Dergh, a place that we had determined on visiting.

As we had a long journey before us, we set out from Enniskillen at an early hour, all of us regretting that we could not remain some days longer there, and visit more of the neighbourhood, which, we were informed, contains many places well worth seeing. From the time of our leaving Enniskillen until our arrival at Pettigo, we continued to meet groups of persons, of both sexes, returning from their religious duties at Lough Dergh; to which, we were told, not only immense numbers of the inhabitants of our own country, but even many from other nations, crowd at this period of the year. It was not very difficult to perceive, that we had chosen a most favourable time for our excursion, from the numbers whom we observed hurrying on in the same direction with ourselves, though actuated by very different motives than curiosity. All of the pilgrims walked barefoot, each carrying a short staff. They seemed seldom to converse with one another, appearing engaged in deep and serious meditation.

At four miles from Enniskillen, we passed Ballycashedy, a small village, which possesses nothing interesting. Soon after, on ascending a hill over which the road passes, nearly close to Lough Erne, we had a delightful view of the lower part of the lake, which is here studded with the most beautiful islands, many of which are covered with fine trees. This was the most extensive view we had yet had of this fine lake; and it struck our party so much, that we all called at the same moment to the driver, to stop, and allow us to enjoy the scene.

The Lough here is about a mile and half broad; and, from where we stood, which was at the bottom of a shallow bay formed by two points of land, Goblusk and Gobrood, we had a view of Ely island, with the improvements, and lodge of the Marquis of that name, lying at the opposite side; the space between adorned, without being crowded, by a number of islands scattered over it, which rose from the silver surface of the lake, in fine green knolls, many of them covered with trees to the water's edge. To the right, the prospect was terminated by the high point of Goblusk, which runs far into the lake; while, on our left, we saw the country towards Enniskillen, and could just distinguish the ancient tower of Devenish rising in solitary grandeur from the water. About four miles further, is the village of Lisnarrick, where we stopped for about an hour; and, although it is a poor place, and the accommodation of the simplest kind, we procured an excellent breakfast; which, though not served in the most elegant manner, was rendered pleasant by the apparent wish of the old landlady to make us happy. Before arriving at this village, we had stopped at Castle Archdall, the seat of Gen. Archdall, situated on a high bank overlooking a small bay of Lough Erne; of which, and many of its islands, it commands an extensive view. The house, though modern, is large and surrounded by a plantation of fine old trees.

From Lisnarrick, we proceeded to Pettigo, catching occasionally a view of Lough Erne, which, in all directions, is certainly a most beautiful object; and hurried on as rapidly as possible, intending to sleep at Ballyshannon, after having visited, in our way, Lough Dergh and Castle Calwell—a plan which we afterwards found it impossible to execute.

In my next, I shall give you some account of our visit to Lough Dergh.—In the meantime, I remain yours, &c.

E—.

ON THE CULTURE OF POTATOES.

To the EDITOR of the BELFAST MAGAZINE.

SIR,

I was much pleased with the directions to farmers, respecting the choice of seeds, which were given in your last Agricultural Report. The article in question contains, in small compass, a variety of observations on the subject, which I can, from experience, pronounce to be most valuable.—The agricultural department of your Magazine appears to be in good hands; and I anticipate much useful information to farmers, from the observations of your reporter. Without